

BANNER RIDGE SUMMER YURT GUIDE

The Banner Ridge yurt is the most popular yurt because it is only a few hundred yards from a passable road and has a spectacular view to the north and east. From Banner Ridge are beautiful views of the South Fork of the Payette River Canyon, Bear Valley, Scott Mountain and the scenic Sawtooth Mountains. Many miles of high elevation primitive roads and trails are available for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. One backcountry road near the yurt descends 3000 feet in 12 miles to Kirkham Hot Springs (a primitive soaking pool next to the river) near Lowman. The yurt's high elevation (6,500 feet) guarantees an assortment of wild flowers all summer long. This is also a wonderful place to experience the power of a summer thunderstorm, view the stars of the Milky Way, watch wildlife, or just to curl up and read a book. The yurt is usually snow free from May 7 through November 15.

How to Get There:

The Banner Ridge Park N' Ski parking lot is 23.5 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. Across from this parking lot, turn right off the highway onto a gravel road. You will immediately pass a toilet. Drive on this gravel road about 2 miles to the yurt parking spot. The road to the yurt will continually climb until you reach the top of the ridge. Do not turn off on any side roads on the way up. A high clearance vehicle is required because of the water bars on the road. You will know you are at the parking spot when you see 4x4 wooden posts with yellow diamond shapes (blazes) attached to them on both sides of the road. A "No Snowmobiling" sign should also be attached to a nearby tree. Please park at the small turnout next to the culvert. This parking spot is also used for the Elkhorn yurt. From here look north to see yellow blazes attached to the trees and a single-track trail. Follow the yellow blazes, generally north for 300 yards, until you arrive at the yurt. The yurt is in a north-facing bowl just off the ridge.

Elevation Gain and Distance:

From the yurt parking spot it is about a 20-foot climb and a 70-foot descent along a 300-yard long single-track trail.

Wood Pile:

Wood for the stove is located 30 feet west of the yurt behind a large evergreen tree. Wood for the fire pit is located north and downhill from the yurt. There are several downed trees in the area which can be cut with the bow saw or axe provided. Please use the downed, dry timber as it helps clean up the area and aides in fire protection.

Water:

There is water available within 350 yards of the yurt. From the yurt, travel down the drainage about 150 yards and down 50 feet in elevation until you come to a visible roadbed. Turn right on the level roadbed and travel 200 yards on the road. At this point, look downhill about 30 feet to see a 4x4 post sticking out of the ground. Five feet downhill from the base of this pole is a spring that comes directly out of the ground. We recommend that this water be boiled for 10 minutes or drawn with a water filter system such as the "First Need".

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Yurt and Trail System, USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic "Lowman."

Global Positioning System Locations (UTM):

Banner Ridge Yurt	11 T 613329 E
	4876810 N

Banner Ridge Parking Lot	11 T 611840 E
	4875230 N